GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1189
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR AS TOURIST SPOT
GADDAM GANGA REDDY;M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Island into tourist spot of international standard to attract foreign and Indian tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Development and promotion of tourism to attract foreign as well as domestic tourist is a continuous process. Central Department of Tourism through its 18 overseas and 21 domestic offices is promoting places of tourist interest in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands by advertising in print & electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting meida & Travel Agents and extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Separately, the Central Department of Tourism in association with United Nations Development Program/World Tourism Organisation (UNDP/WTO) conducted a study on Development of Strategy for Environmentally Sustainable Tourism in the Andamans`. The islands have two assets of prime importance, viz. a number of every fine beaches suitable for very high quality resort development and excellent opportunit6ies for scuba diving. The report identified 5 Zones for development of Tourism. The emphasis is on getting private sector participation for construction of hotels and resorts. The ultimate objective of the plan is to bring up the islands as a tourist spot of international standard.

Similarly in order to promote Lakshadweep as a major tourist destination, Central Department of Tourism has offered financial assistance to prepare a Comprehensive Master Plan for development of tourism in the Island. The UT Administration of Lakshadweep is also considering to seek private investment for opening new Island for setting up infrastructure for tourism as the islands have tremendous potential to emerge as world class water sports and leisure tourism destination.

Moreover, Department of Tourism provides grants-in-aid for development of tourist centres/places in the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

For the year 2001-2002, four projects with central financial assistance of Rs.137.00 lakhs have been prioritised for Andaman & Nicobar Island and four projects for Rs.92.00 lakhs have been prioritised for Lakshadweep.